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ABSTRACT

Enrollment projections for use in long-range planning for Texas higher education have been updated through the use of alternative methodologies to realistically reflect changing patterns of college enrollment among various age groups and geographic areas of the state. The new forecast predicts an overall gain of 16.9 percent in the state's postsecondary institutions, a marked contrast with the more than 93 percent statewide enrollment growth for the previous decade, with the major portion of growth projected to occur during the first five years. Year-by-year fall enrollment forecasts are presented, including actual headcount for the 1977 fall semester, categorized by type of institution (junior or senior colleges) and type of institutional control (independent or public). Enrollments for each of the public senior colleges and universities are also forecast. The two basic methods used to produce the forecasts, the aggregate population-based forecast and the disaggregate population-based forecast, are summarized. The specific steps, using the "cohort-migration-survival component" method to make population projections, which is a key element in enrollment forecasts, are outlined, and a table with population by age groups is included. In addition, the method employed to project the individual enrollments for the public senior colleges and universities is indicated. (JMD)

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Fall Headcount Enrollment Forecasts

Texas Postsecondary Educational Institutions

1978-1987

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

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Foreword

To fulfill its responsibility for the unified development of Texas higher education and to meet certain constitutional and legislative requirements, the Coordinating Board periodically develops long-range enrollment forecasts for the state's colleges and universities. Such projections are used in long-range planning for Texas higher education. Enrollment projections for individual public senior colleges last were made in 1968, as directed by the Texas Constitution, for use in determining the distribution of ad valorem tax funds. The most recent statewide projections, by type of institution, were published in a report to the 64th Texas Legislature in January 1975.

An examination of the changing patterns of college-going rates among various age groups and within geographic areas of the state indicated that previous projection methodologies may not produce forecasts that realistically describe future enrollment trends. Consequently, the staff approach for updating enrollment projections was to examine alternative methodologies and employ those which best reflected known conditions.

The enrollment projections presented in Study Paper 27 are the results of that process. The Board on March 10, 1978, adopted the 10-year projections for the individual public senior colleges, and its staff later developed the additional statewide forecasts for public community colleges and junior and senior institutions in the private sector. Through the continuing study paper series, results of educational research projects undertaken by or for the Board are made available to the Texas academic community, government officials and interested citizens.

A private consulting firm, Southwest Econometrics of Austin, was employed to assist the staff in preparation of this study. Institutional representatives also were encouraged to participate, and many did. The Coordinating Board and its staff express appreciation to them for their contributions.

Kenneth H. Ashworth
Commissioner of Higher Education

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Overview

Enrollment projections for Texas higher education in the next decade indicate a marked contrast with the growth rate of the previous 10 years. For the period of 1977 to 1987 covered in this study, enrollment in the state's postsecondary institutions is expected to increase by approximately 1.7 percent each year, for an overall gain of 16.9 percent. From 1968 to 1977, statewide enrollment growth was more than 93 percent.

The major portion of the 1977 to 1987 growth is projected to occur during the first five years. After 1983, total enrollments are likely to reach a plateau through 1987. This forecast reflects the general statewide population decrease in the 19- to 25-year-old age group and the gradual maturing of the population. The decline in the traditional college-age group will be partially offset by an expected growth in college-going rates, especially among those older than 25. However, the changing patterns of college participation by age groups will not be sufficiently large enough to compensate entirely for the smaller number of potential students of traditional college age.

Total public senior college enrollment is expected to increase about 1.5 percent per year through 1987, for a 10-year growth of 15.36 percent. Public community/junior college enrollment will grow approximately 1.9 percent annually, increasing 19.6 percent in the next decade. Independent senior institutions, while continuing to increase their enrollments at an average annual rate of about 1.1 percent, are not likely to show as much gain as the public senior colleges and universities. Private junior

colleges are expected to continue to decline in enrollment.

In general, a 10.4 percent increase is projected for the independent sector in the next 10 years, with a 17.6 percent growth rate forecast for public institutions.

A year-by-year breakdown of enrollment forecasts for the period 1978 to 1987 are presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3 which follow. Each table begins with the actual headcount enrollment for fall semester 1977. The succeeding forecasts are for fall semester enrollments of the year indicated. Summaries of the methods used to produce those forecasts follow the enrollment tables.

The projections were based on a study of available historical data from 1951 to 1976 to establish trends in enrollment, college-going rates by age groups and geographic patterns of growth for students. This data was analyzed with respect to county population projections by age groups. All forecasts were made on the basis of fall semester headcount enrollment for the 10-year period 1978 to 1987. Statewide forecasts were made for each of five broad types of institutions: public community colleges, independent junior colleges, public senior colleges and universities, independent senior colleges and universities and the Texas State Technical Institute. Enrollments for each of the 37 public senior colleges and universities also were forecast. However, individual enrollment forecasts were not made for any other types of institutions.

TABLE 1

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FORECASTS
TEXAS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
1978 - 1987

(1977 Is Actual)

By Type of Institution

	Junior Colleges[a]		Senior Colleges		TSTI	Total Enrollment[b]
Year	Inde.	Public	Inde.	Public[c]		
1977	2,355	309,547	73,277	323,514	7,586	716,279
1978	2,296	323,397	75,225	332,964	7,814	741,696
1979	2,238	344,386	77,247	346,180	8,048	778,099
1980	2,183	355,500	79,479	351,229	8,289	796,680
1981	2,128	355,916	79,843	354,807	8,538	801,232
1982	2,075	354,967	80,197	358,134	8,794	804,167
1983	2,023	361,957	80,327	361,099	9,058	814,464
1984	1,972	366,723	80,580	364,020	9,330	822,625
1985	1,923	367,387	80,854	366,952	9,610	826,726
1986	1,875	368,467	81,131	370,078	9,898	831,449
1987	1,828	370,275	81,651	373,218	10,195	837,167
Change 1977-87	-22.38%	+19.62%	+11.43%	+15.36%	+34.39%	+16.88%

Note:

a. Junior college headcount enrollments include both semester and less than semester length courses

b. Total enrollment projections do not include medical, dental, nursing, allied health, graduate biomedical sciences or public health enrollment in public or private health professional institutions

c. Forecasts for individual public senior colleges are provided in Table 2

TABLE 2

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FORECASTS
TEXAS POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

(1977 Is Actual)

1978 - 1987

By Type of Control

Year	Independent	Public
1977	75,632	640,647
1978	77,521	664,175
1979	79,485	698,614
1980	81,662	715,018
1981	81,971	719,261
1982	82,272	721,895
1983	82,350	732,114
1984	82,552	740,073
1985	82,777	743,949
1986	83,006	748,443
1987	83,479	753,688
Change 1977-87	+10.37%	+17.64%

TABLE 3

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FORECASTS
TEXAS PUBLIC SENIOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
1978-1987
(1977 IS ACTUAL)

Year	Angelo State U.	East Texas State U.	East Texas Texarkana	Lamar U.	Lamar U. at Orange	Lamar U. at Port Arthur	Midwestern State U.	North Texas State U.
1977	5245	9586	1151	11128	827	845	4557	17151
1978	5399	9706	1174	11250	935	935	4815	17795
1979	5442	9823	1197	11396	1043	1065	5047	18440
1980	5483	9943	1221	11539	1150	1150	5080	19087
1981	5526	10056	1245	11571	1220	1220	5003	19144
1982	5568	10170	1270	11600	1290	1290	5117	19201
1983	5609	10285	1321	11636	1360	1360	5216	19258
1984	5651	10399	1374	11661	1430	1430	5282	19316
1985	5693	10514	1429	11691	1500	1500	5337	19373
1986	5738	10629	1486	11721	1500	1500	5343	19431
1987	5783	10743	1545	11753	1500	1500	5377	19487
Percent Change 1977-1987	10.26	12.07	34.23	5.62	81.38	77.51	17.99	13.62

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FORECASTS (continued):

Year	Pan American U.	Pan American Univ. at Brownsville	Sam Houston State U.	Southwest Texas State U.	Stephen F. Austin State U.	Sul Ross State U.	Sul Ross at Uvalde	Corpus Christi State U.
1977	8106	1019	10749	14670	10446	1703	589	2413
1978	8373	1101	11044	15266	10632	1735	605	2534
1979	8640	1180	11336	15778	19818	1743	621	2660
1980	8907	1262	11631	16314	11004	1784	637	2793
1981	9359	1344	11777	16479	11112	1825	656	2933
1982	9811	1427	11924	16627	11218	1844	674	3080
1983	10264	1508	12069	16773	11326	1863	692	3110
1984	10717	1590	12215	16921	11432	1881	711	3142
1985	11171	1672	12361	17067	11540	1899	729	3173
1986	11623	1754	12508	17213	11647	1919	747	3205
1987	12075	1822	12655	17369	11755	1941	766	3237
Percent Change 1977-1987	48.96	78.80	17.73	18.40	12.53	13.98	30.05	34.15

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FORECASTS (continued):

Year	Texas A&I Univ.	Laredo State U.	Prairie View A&M Univ.	Tarleton State U.	Texas A&M Univ.	Moody College	Texas Southern U.	Texas Tech U.
1977	6600	793	5146	3317	28848	572	9510	22358
1978	6689	817	5238	3373	29835	618	9938	23044
1979	6775	841	5331	3428	30798	667	10335	23672
1980	6863	867	5423	3483	31768	721	10403	24302
1981	6903	893	5475	3496	31991	778	10494	24249
1982	6943	919	5526	3508	32180	840	10509	24170
1983	6984	947	5578	3522	32366	908	10704	24087
1984	7024	975	5630	3534	32554	980	10856	24008
1985	7064	1004	5682	3546	32744	1059	10988	23928
1986	7104	1034	5733	3559	32932	1143	11066	23850
1987	7144	1065	5786	3571	33132	1235	11176	23732
Percent Change 1977-1987	8.24	34.30	12.44	7.66	14.85	115.91	17.52	6.15

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FORECASTS (continued):

Year	Texas Woman's U.	Texas Eastern U.	UT Arlington	UT Austin	UT Dallas	UT El Paso	UT Permian Basin	UT San Antonio
1977	8915	1797	17201	41660	5333	15835	1575	7849
1978	9100	1947	17673	41660	6080	16463	1599	8241
1979	9284	2097	18647	41660	6627	17092	1612	8654
1980	9470	2232	19421	41660	7025	17720	1626	9086
1981	9507	2347	19626	41660	7235	17646	1639	9541
1982	9545	2441	19577	41660	7380	17572	1653	10018
1983	9582	2507	19528	41660	7528	17498	1666	10319
1984	9620	2573	19479	41660	7678	17425	1680	10628
1985	9658	2639	19430	41660	7832	17351	1693	10947
1985	9696	2705	19750	41660	7988	17277	1707	11275
1987	9733	2768	20070	41660	8139	17204	1735	11614
Percent Change 1977-1987	9.18	54.03	16.68	*	52.62	8.65	10.16	47.97

*No substantial change, but enrollment could vary plus or minus 1 percent annually.

FALL HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT FORECASTS (continued):

Year	Univ. of Houston	UH Downtown	UH Victoria	UH Clear Lake	West Texas State	TOTALS
1977	29297	4576	694	4830	6623	323514
1978	30053	4668	704	5216	6709	332964
1979	30842	4761	714	5634	6792	346180
1980	31631	4856	725	6084	6875	351229
1981	31705	4953	728	6571	6900	354807
1982	31779	5052	730	7097	6924	358134
1983	31853	5153	732	7381	6946	361099
1984	31927	5256	734	7676	6971	364020
1985	32001	5362	736	7983	6996	366952
1986	32076	5469	738	8302	7020	370078
1987	32149	5578	740	8634	7045	373218
Percent Change 1977-1987	9.73	21.90	6.63	78.76	6.37	15.36

Summary of Forecast Methodology

Two basic methods were used to forecast fall headcount enrollment for Texas postsecondary educational institutions: the aggregate population-based forecast and the disaggregate population-based forecast. Both methods employ available historical performance data regarding student enrollment patterns and population projections by age groups for the 1978-1987 period. Because populations projections are a key element in the enrollment forecasts, a summary of the procedures used to obtain those projections by age groups is given below.

Projecting Population in Texas. Population projections were made for each of the 254 Texas counties using a variation of the "cohort-migration-survival component" method, a procedure employed frequently in demographic work. This approach is preferred over a straightforward "cohort survival" technique because it incorporates separate survival components for net migration and mortality, yielding a more realistic population projection. Since this approach, by definition, projects actual age-sex cohorts, a certain degree of realism is introduced that is not found in other kinds of forecasting methods, such as trend projections. Through the use here of cohorts--that is, age-sex specific population categories--the order of demographic events in real life is closely paralleled.

The specific steps necessary to generate the county population projections are as follows:

1) Data was gathered for the years 1960 and 1970 for male and female populations for each Texas county and for each of 14 five-year

age groups: 0-4, 5-9, 10-14, ..., 60-64 and 65 and older.

2) The 1960 age-sex cohorts were survived to 1970 by applying a set of standard life table survival rates.

3) Net migration in the county was assumed to be the difference between the "expected 1970 totals" and the actual 1970 totals as recorded in the census. This comparison produced "estimated 1960-1970 net migration rates" for each of the age-sex cohorts, in each of the Texas counties.

4) The 1970 populations then were projected to 1980, using as the base for 1970 the actual 1970 populations found in the census. The 1970 age-sex cohorts were survived to 1980 by calling on the standard set of life table survival rates. "Estimated 1960-1970 net migration rates" were multiplied by their respective 1970 age-sex cohort population counts to produce a schedule of estimated net migration totals (by age and sex). However, those totals were not applied directly to the age-sex cohorts which had already been survived (mortality only) to 1970. Instead we developed five sets of net migration totals by 60, 80, 100, 120 and 140 percent. Hence, five separate projections were developed for 1980, each using a different weight in computing the net migration totals. Numbers in each county wide age-sex category were combined for determing the five 1980 projections by individual county.

5) Population estimates, produced and provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, for Texas counties in 1975 also were considered. On a county-by-county basis, we backed up each of the five 1980 projections to 1975 through linear interpolation. The projection, interpolated back, which was the closest to the 1975 population estimate was judged to be

the "best" projection, and the weight generating it (60, 80, 100, 120 or 140 percent) was then used in all further projections involving the net migration component.

6) Projections in 1980 then were developed. The number of 1970 age-sex cohorts were survived to 1980 by using the life table survival rates. The set of age-sex migration rates determined to produce the "best" migration estimates was then multiplied by the respective 1970 age-sex population counts finally, these migration estimates were added to their respective 1980 "survived" age-sex cohorts.

7) The 1980 projections were produced for each of the age-sex cohorts delineated, with the obvious exception of the male and female 0-4 and 5-9 year old cohorts. (Since these four cohorts were not alive in 1970, they could not be survived form 1970 to 1980.) These four new cohorts were "created" and placed into the 1980 population.

8) Steps 6 and 7 were repeated for the projections to 1990. That is, the 1990 projections were produced by first surviving the 1980 age-sex cohorts to 1990. The amount of 1980-1990 net migration for each cohort was then calculated according the the directions in steps 6 and 7. At the completion of this step, age-sex projections were produced for 1980 and for 1990 for each of 14 five-year cohorts.

9) Linear estimations then were made for the various age-sex cohorts for the years intervening between 1970 and 1980 (1971, 1972, 1973, etc.) and for those between 1980 and 1990 as desired.

Because of the volume of data produced (20 years of data for 254 counties and 14 age groups for males and females), only statewide projections for selected age groups are shown here.

	POPULATION BY AGE GROUP				TOTAL POPULATION
Year	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 & Above	
1977	1,239,596	1,183,558	1,075,287	5,768,431	12,668,933
1978	1,242,478	1,208,590	1,101,796	5,920,515	12,911,998
1979	1,242,164	1,223,811	1,135,816	6,071,258	13,162,696
1980	1,193,698	1,229,794	1,132,310	6,136,521	13,180,000
1981	1,133,661	1,219,392	1,134,527	6,127,710	13,090,222
1982	1,092,825	1,225,708	1,161,362	6,244,116	13,268,753
1983	1,054,041	1,224,132	1,181,446	6,369,883	13,451,454
1984	1,026,885	1,218,206	1,191,646	6,501,641	13,638,962
1985	1,028,134	1,178,574	1,223,617	6,640,955	13,832,010
1986	1,051,028	1,140,762	1,238,318	6,782,280	14,030,886
1987	1,085,748	1,102,522	1,245,645	6,924,470	14,235,943

Aggregate Population-Based Forecast. The aggregate method of forecasting fall headcount enrollment established the historical relation between enrollments and the age distribution of the state's population for the same period. Projections were based on a combination of past enrollment trends and population projections for the state. Historical enrollment data from 1951 to 1976 was collected for public community colleges (total statewide), independent junior colleges (total statewide), independent senior colleges (total statewide), Texas State Technical Institute and each of the 37 public senior colleges and universities. These enrollments then were combined with alternative age distributions of the population for the same period.

Alternative regression equations relating the historical data on fall headcount enrollment in each type of institution (or individual

institutions for senior colleges and universities) to various age distributions of the population were estimated. After the regression equations were estimated, forecasts based on the projected population figures were made and analyzed.

A basic problem with the aggregate population-based forecast stems from the fact that it is based on the assumption that enrollment trends in institutions drawing students from particular areas of the state can be determined by the movement of population within the state as a whole. Therefore, while this method generally is reliable for projecting statewide enrollments for groups of institutions, it has severe shortcomings in forecasting enrollment for individual institutions attracting students from specific areas. Because of this shortcoming, disaggregate population-based forecasts also were developed.

Disaggregate Population-Based Forecast. The disaggregate population-based forecasts of fall headcount enrollment for the 37 Texas public senior institutions over the period 1978-1987 were obtained in the following manner: County population projections by five-year age intervals over the period 1978-1987 for each of the 254 counties in Texas were generated as previously described. Next, annual statewide college participation rates were determined for the following four age classifications (corresponding to the age breakdowns of the county population projections): 15-19, 20-24, 25-29 and 30 and above. Participation rates were calculated by dividing the number of individuals in each age group enrolled in a senior institution for each year in the period 1968-1975 by the total population in each age group. These annual statewide participation rates were examined to determine whether or not

college participation by age groups was stable over time. The data indicated that the college-going rate for the two younger age groups remained relatively constant; the two older age groups, however, showed an increase. Consequently, it was decided to use the participation rates for 1975, the last year for which data were available.[1]

College participation rates and county population projections were then multiplied to obtain the total projected number of students attending senior institutions from each county for each year in the projection period. County totals were allocated among the 37 senior public institutions by multiplying the county totals by the average percentage of students from each county who, over the period 1968-1975, attended a particular senior institution.

This procedure may be described more formally as follows:

Let:

A be a 1x4 vector of college participation rates for the following four age groups: 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, and 30 and above;

B (t) be a 4x254 matrix of projected age groups by county for year t;

D be a 254x37 matrix of the average percentage of students attending each institution (i.e., a single element d_{ij} of D represents the average percentage of students, for the period 1968-1975, from county i who attended school j);

R (t) be a 1x37 vector of enrollment projections for year t.

If we now assume that the vector A and the matrix D represent college-going behavior over the period 1978-1987 we have

$$(1) \quad \underset{1x37}{R(t)} = \underset{1x4}{A}\ \underset{4x254}{B(t)}\ \underset{254x37}{D} \qquad t = 1978, \ldots, 1987$$

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[1]It should be noted that age specific participation rates on a county by county basis were preferred, but data limitations precluded their calculation.

One additional adjustment was made before equation (1) was used. Each column of R (t) was multiplied by a constant, such that enrollments predicted in 1977 would be equal to actual 1977 enrollment. That is, R (t) was postmultiplied by a diagonal matrix, P, of order 37, whose diagonal elements were the ratio of actual 1977 fall headcount enrollment for school i to that predicted by equation (i) for school i. Thus the forecasting equation becomes

(2) $R^*(t) = AB(t)DP$

The use of P adjusts the forecasts upward to account for students attending each institution from outside of Texas.

Two variations of this equation were used. They were designated disaggregate primary drawing area and disaggregate statewide. For the primary drawing area method, an institution's potential student-drawing population was defined on a regional rather than on a statewide basis. An institution's region was considered to include those counties which contributed two percent or more of the school's total enrollment. These regional definitions embraced approximately 10 to 12 counties for most schools. Adjustments were made to account for the number of students attending each institution from outside its primary drawing area.

The statewide method considered all 254 counties as a potential drawing area regardless of enrollment patterns based on the historical percentage of students from certain counties attending an institution.

Application of Forecasting Methods. The aggregate population-based forecast was used as a basis for statewide enrollments for public and independent junior colleges, independent senior colleges and Texas State Technical Institute. The aggregate population-based forecast also was used for 14 of the 37 public senior institutions. Most of those 14 schools are developing institutions for which only limited historical data were available. It was therefore necessary to make some adjustments

based on judgmental factors. In all cases where the aggregate forecast was used, it provided a larger headcount enrollment projection than either of the disaggregate methods.

The disaggregate forecasting method was employed for 20 of the public senior colleges. Calculations were made using both of the variations (primary or statewide drawing area) of the equation. The one which yielded the largest enrollment forecast was selected. The method used for each institution is indicated in the chart.

FORECAST METHOD USED

INSTITUTION	AGGREGATE	DISAGGREGATE		OTHER
		Primary	Statewide	
Angelo State University			X	
East Texas State University			X	
East Texas Univ. at Texarkana	X			
Lamar University			X	
Lamar University at Orange				Inst. Projection
Midwestern State University	X			
North Texas State University			X	
Pan American University		X		
Pan American Univ. at Brownsville	X			
Sam Houston State University			X	
Southwest Texas State University			X	
Stephen F. Austin State University			X	
Sul Ross State University			X	
Sul Ross State University at Uvalde			X	
Corpus Christi State University	X			
Texas A&I University			X	
Laredo State University	X			
Prairie View A&M University			X	
Tarleton State University			X	
Texas A&M University			X	
Moody College	X			
Texas Southern University	X			
Texas Tech University			X	
Texas Woman's University			X	
Texas Eastern University	X			
University of Texas at Arlington	X			
University of Texas at Austin				Stable Enrollment
University of Texas at Dallas	X			
University of Texas at El Paso			X	
Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin		X		
University of Texas at San Antonio	X			
University of Houston, Central Campus			X	
Univ. of Houston, Downtown College	X			
University of Houston at Victoria	X			
Univ. of Houston at Clear Lake City	X			
West Texas State University			X	